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Leading Asian Airline Will be First to Provide Travelers E-mail and Intranet Access Via Primex Technologies EMPORT(tm)System

April 10th, 2000

Flying IEEE 1394 Networks - Cathay Pacific Airways Signs as Launch Customer for Primex Technologies EMPORT Laptop Connectivity System

REDMOND, Wash. -- Cathay Pacific Airways and Primex Technologies, Inc., the leading provider of aircraft in-seat power systems, announce an agreement for Cathay Pacific to be the launch customer for the EMPORT(tm) data system on its fleet of 56 aircraft.

This system provides the capability for passengers to use their laptops or notebook computers to access email inflight, and ... an onboard Intranet. This is possible from anywhere by communicating from the aircraft via the existing satcom communications system on Cathay Pacific's network.

Also included in the agreement is the installation of the EMPOWER system throughout the aircraft in every class of service on the Cathay Pacific fleet. The EMPOWER in-seat power system provides safe, reliable DC-power to outlets in the passenger seats. EMPOWER systems are currently installed in over 40,000 seats worldwide on 40 different airlines on a full range of Boeing and Airbus aircraft.

Many laptop manufacturers now provide 15 volt DC personal computers which offer direct connect cables with aircraft compatible connectors. These laptop manufacturers include Compaq, Apple and NEC. For laptops without the 15 volt DC connectivity, DC to DC adapters are available from a range of manufacturers.

"Our passenger research indicates that e-mail and in-seat power are high on our business traveler's list of priorities," said Sarah Blomfield, Manager Product of Cathay Pacific. "The high performance EMPORT system provides Cathay Pacific passengers with the best technology and high speed access to data on the aircraft and on the ground."

"It is a privilege to be selected by Cathay Pacific, one of the world's leading airlines, to participate in the next revolution

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in In-Flight Entertainment (IFE)." said Rob Walzer, Senior Director of Cabin Electronics at Primex

Aerospace Company. "We share Cathay Pacific's vision of providing enabling technologies to airline passengers that make their in-flight experiences more productive and enjoyable through the use of "intelligent peripherals" which connect into the onboard high speed network and power infrastructure at the seat."

Cathay Pacific will begin installation on their aircraft fleet in 2001. The fleet includes Airbus A340 and A330 aircraft and Boeing 777 and 747 aircraft.

The EMPORT system is made up of high-speed network cabin distribution hardware based on the computer industry standard TCP/IP network protocols, to run third-party software applications chosen by the airline. The network is distributed throughout the aircraft over copper wire on several 400 Mbit IEEE 1394 "Firewire" networks. This high speed network allows over 200 passengers to use the system simultaneously. Users connect to the network via a USB connection from their PCs to the seat. Competitive systems based on traditional onboard E1 telephony systems and many of the IFE based solutions support only a handful of simultaneous users and utilize non-computer industry standard, proprietary protocols for network communications.

SITA is the service provider for the air to ground satcom data connection via the Inmarsat satellite constellation which provides coverage of over 90% of the earth including the oceans. As high speed networks to the aircraft become available, access to the live Internet from the aircraft passenger seat is a possibility.

The system operates independently of the In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) system which is currently installed on Cathay Pacific's fleet.

About the 1394 Trade Association

The 1394 Trade Association includes more than 170 worldwide consumer electronics, computer and peripherals leaders dedicated to the proliferation and application of the IEEE 1394 standard.

For more information, please visit the TA web sites at <http://www.1394ta.org/> or <http://www.1394ta.org/Press/2000Press/april/www.1394showcase.com>

Editorial Contact: Dick Davies
Independent Public Relations Assoc.

415-777-4161

